



Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending February 1, 2014

Prepared by the Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response
Infectious Disease Bureau – Prevention and Health Promotion Administration
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

The data presented in this document are provisional and subject to change as additional reports come in.

SUMMARY

During the week ending February 1, 2014, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **MINIMAL** and geographic activity was **WIDESPREAD**. Indicators for ILI are above Maryland's baseline level and generally comparable to last week, although visits to Emergency Departments dropped below levels seen in the prior four weeks. There was an increase in the number of specimens submitted to the State laboratory, but the percent positive remained similar to last week. The proportion of specimens testing positive for the sentinel labs dipped slightly, but remained high. Seventy-one influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported. There were two outbreaks of respiratory disease.

[Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page](#)

ILI Intensity Levels

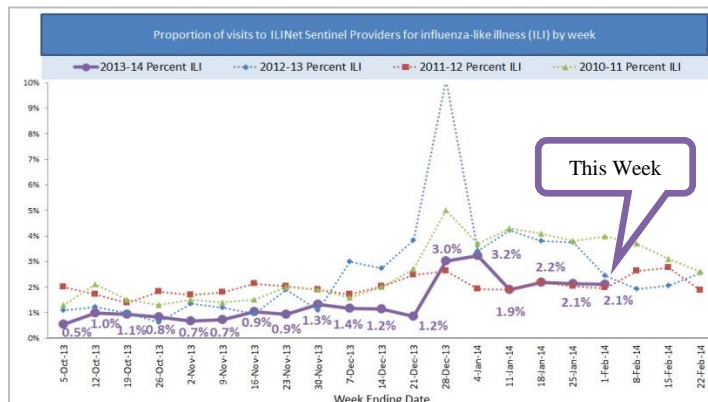
✓ Minimal
Low
Moderate
High

Influenza Geographic Spread

No Activity
Sporadic
Local
Regional
✓ Widespread

ILINet Sentinel Providers

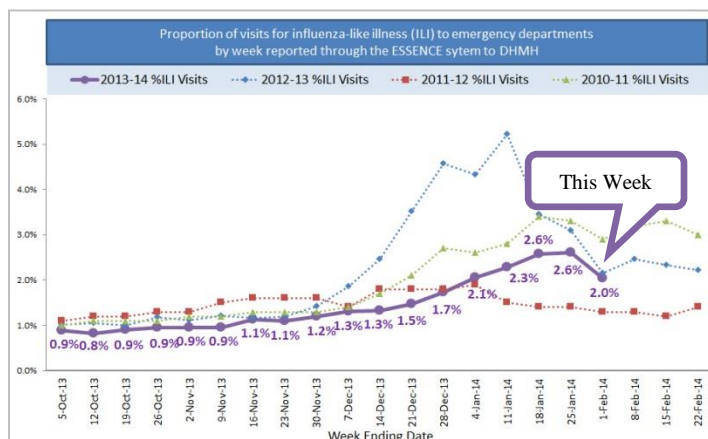
Fifteen sentinel providers reported a total of 10,204 visits this week. Of those, 215 (2.1%) were visits for ILI. This is **above** the Maryland baseline of **2.0%**.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	60 (28%)	57 (36%)	627 (27%)
Age 5-24	69 (32%)	50 (32%)	902 (39%)
Age 25-49	63 (29%)	42 (27%)	595 (26%)
Age 50-64	18 (8%)	8 (5%)	160 (7%)
Age ≥ 65	5 (2%)	0 (0%)	46 (2%)
Total ILI Visits	215 (100%)	157 (100%)	2330 (100%)

Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 42,622 visits this week through the [ESSENCE surveillance system](#). Of those, 867 (2.0%) were visits for ILI.



ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	162 (19%)	217 (20%)	3114 (27%)
Age 5-24	220 (25%)	294 (27%)	2958 (26%)
Age 25-49	325 (37%)	441 (40%)	3594 (32%)
Age 50-64	119 (14%)	115 (10%)	1181 (10%)
Age ≥ 65	40 (5%)	38 (3%)	489 (4%)
Unknown	1 (<1%)	1 (<1%)	22 (<1%)
Total ILI Visits	867 (100%)	1106 (100%)	11358 (100%)

Other states' influenza information:

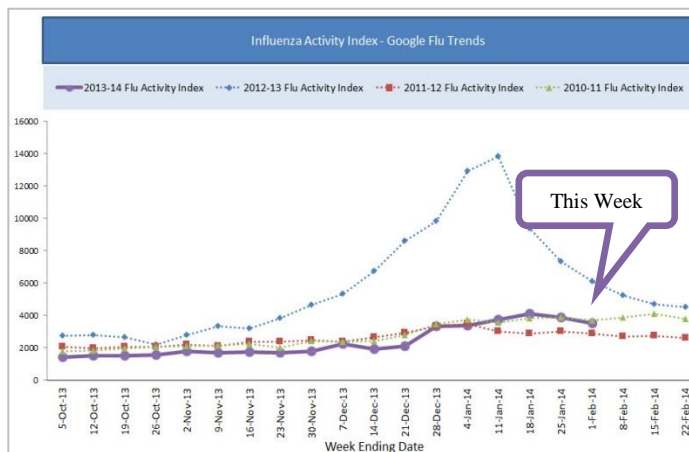
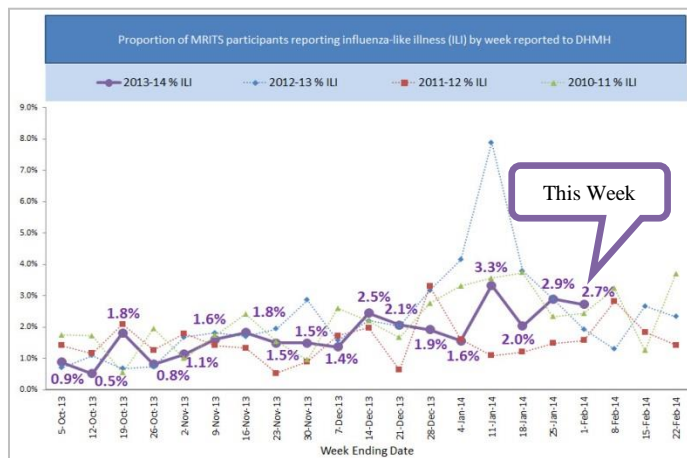
Delaware <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html>
District of Columbia <http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza>
Pennsylvania [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_\(flu\)/14161](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_(flu)/14161)
Virginia <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/Epidemiology/Surveillance/Influenza/>
West Virginia <http://dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/fluSurveillance.aspx>

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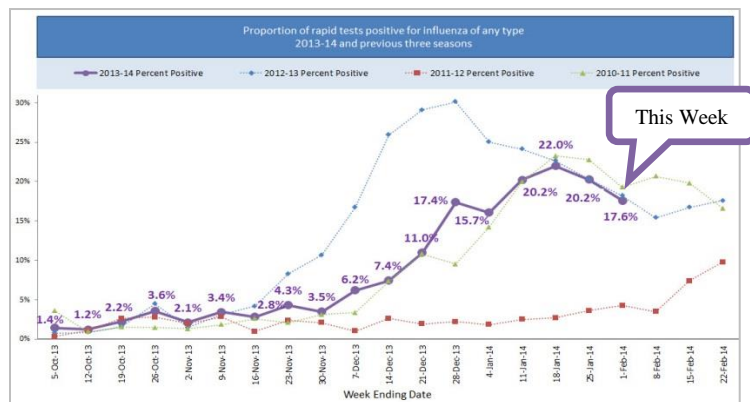
Community-based Influenza Surveillance (MRITS and Google Flu Trends)

MRITS is the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System, a weekly survey for influenza-like illness (ILI). A total of 661 residents responded to the [MRITS survey](#) this week. Of those, 18 (2.7%) reported having ILI and missing a cumulative 51 days of regular daily activities. According to [Google Flu Trends](#), influenza activity is "Moderate" in Maryland.

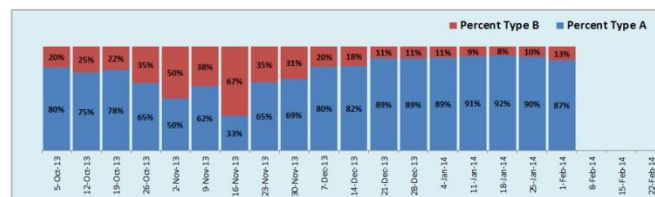


Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

Thirty-five clinical laboratories reported performing 4,088 influenza diagnostic tests, mostly rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDTs). Of those, 719 (17.6%) were positive for influenza. Of those testing positive, 625 (86.9%) were influenza type A and 94 (13.1%) were influenza type B. The [reliability of RIDTs](#) depends largely on the conditions under which they are used. False-positive (and true-negative) results are more likely to occur when the disease prevalence in the community is low, which is generally at the beginning and end of the influenza season and during the summer.

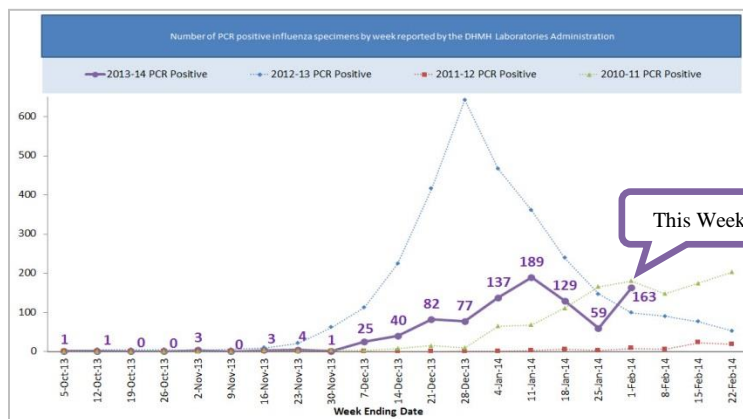


Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	625 (87%)	922 (90%)	4320 (89%)
Type B	94 (13%)	104 (10%)	559 (11%)
Total	719 (100%)	1026 (100%)	4879 (100%)



State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The DHMH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 298 PCR tests for influenza and 163 (54.7%) specimens tested positive. Of those, 156 (95.7%) were Type A (H1N1) and seven (4.3%) were Type A (H3N2). PCR testing is more reliable than RIDT. The DHMH testing identifies subtypes of influenza A, information that is not available from the RIDT results. The table below summarizes results by type and subtype.



Positive PCR Tests by Type (Subtype)	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A (H1)	156 (96%)	59 (100%)	878 (96%)
Type A (H3)	7 (4%)	--	28 (3%)
Type A (H3N2v)	--	--	--
Type B	--	--	8 (1%)
Total	163 (100%)	59 (100%)	914 (100%)

Where to get an influenza vaccination

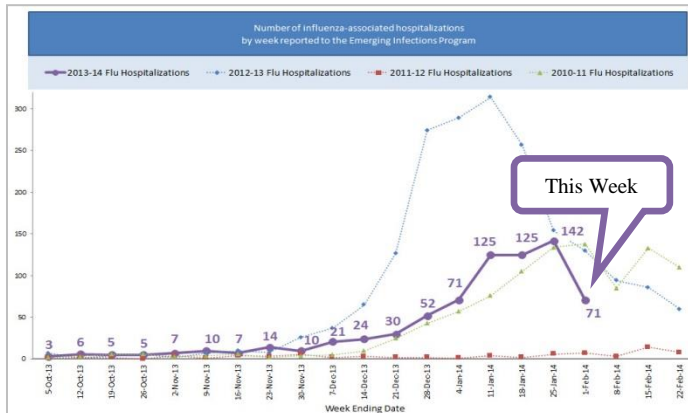
Interested in getting a flu vaccine for the 2013-14 influenza season? Go to <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/flumud/SitePages/getvaccinated.aspx> and click on your county/city of residence. You will be redirected to your local health department website for local information on where to get your flu vaccine.

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Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

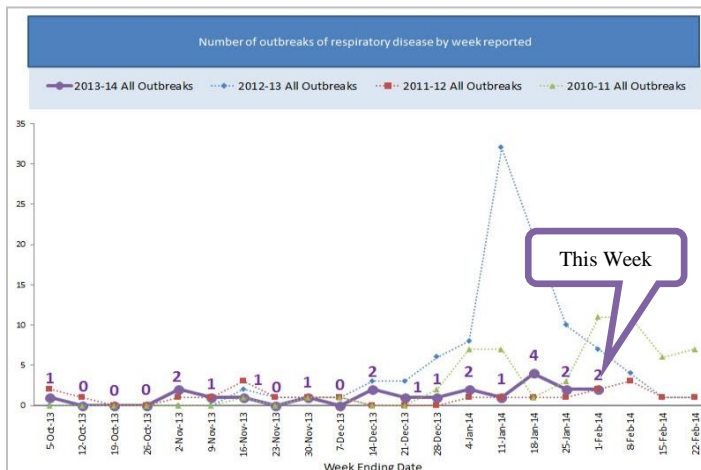
This week, hospitals in Maryland reported 71 influenza-associated hospitalizations. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g. RIDT or PCR, is considered an “influenza-associated hospitalization” for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	7 (10%)	13 (9%)	82 (11%)
Age 5-17	3 (4%)	7 (5%)	32 (4%)
Age 18-24	4 (6%)	5 (4%)	31 (4%)
Age 25-49	19 (27%)	47 (33%)	209 (29%)
Age 50-64	20 (28%)	32 (23%)	197 (27%)
Age ≥ 65	18 (25%)	38 (27%)	177 (24%)
Total	71 (100%)	142 (100%)	728 (100%)

Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

There were two outbreaks of respiratory disease reported to DHMH this week. Both were influenza outbreaks. (Disease outbreaks of any kind are reportable in Maryland. Respiratory outbreaks may be reclassified once a causative agent is detected, e.g. from ILI to influenza.)



Respiratory Outbreaks by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Influenza	2 (100%)	2 (100%)	10 (48%)
Influenza-like Illness	--	--	6 (29%)
Pneumonia	--	--	5 (24%)
Other Respiratory	--	--	--
Total	2 (100%)	2 (100%)	21 (100%)

National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

- Viral Surveillance:** Of 8,282 specimens tested and reported during week 5 by U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories, 1,626 (19.6%) were positive for influenza.
- Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality:** The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was above the epidemic threshold.
- Influenza-Associated Pediatric Deaths:** Three influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported.
- Influenza-associated Hospitalizations:** A season-cumulative rate of 22.5 laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations per 100,000 population was reported.
- Outpatient Illness Surveillance:** The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 3.2%, above the national baseline of 2.0%. All 10 regions reported ILI above region-specific baseline levels. Seven states experienced high ILI activity; 12 states experienced moderate ILI activity; 14 states and New York City experienced low ILI activity; 17 states experienced minimal ILI activity, and the District of Columbia had insufficient data.
- Geographic Spread of Influenza:** The geographic spread of influenza in 29 states was reported as widespread; 19 states reported regional influenza activity; the District of Columbia and one state reported local influenza activity; Guam, Puerto Rico, and one state reported sporadic influenza activity, and the U.S. Virgin Islands reported no influenza activity.

